

## House Resolution 1166

By: Representatives Marin of the 96<sup>th</sup>, Drenner of the 86<sup>th</sup>, and Thomas of the 100<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging local boards of education to apply for federal funding to retrofit school buses with  
2 pollution control devices; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, more than 200,000 Georgia children have asthma, and those who do not are at  
4 greater risk of developing the illness if regularly exposed to unhealthy air; and

5 WHEREAS, on average, children in Georgia spend about an hour each school day on a  
6 school bus; and

7 WHEREAS, while school buses are, in many ways, the safest way for children to travel to  
8 school, harmful diesel exhaust can build up in the cabins of school buses, putting children  
9 at risk; and

10 WHEREAS, dangerous fine particulates in diesel exhaust can be reduced by as much as 85  
11 percent by installing pollution control devices (retrofits); and

12 WHEREAS, children are particularly vulnerable to exposure to diesel exhaust because they  
13 breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults; and

14 WHEREAS, breathing diesel exhaust can contribute to both chronic and acute human health  
15 problems, such as asthma attacks, reduced lung function, lung disease, cancer, and even  
16 premature death; and

17 WHEREAS, to date, 17 school systems in Georgia have retrofitted a total of roughly 1,000  
18 buses; and

19 WHEREAS, millions of dollars from several federal sources are available to school systems  
20 in areas that do not meet federal air quality standards; and

21 WHEREAS, over the past several years, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
22 (EPD) has received several million dollars from the federal government to retrofit school  
23 buses and other diesel engines with pollution control devices; and

24 WHEREAS, school transportation directors can apply for funding to retrofit their school  
25 buses through the Georgia EPD; and

26 WHEREAS, protecting children from known dangers and guaranteeing a safe and healthy  
27 ride to school should be a priority for Georgia.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
29 the members of this body urge local boards of education to apply for federal funding to  
30 retrofit school buses with pollution control devices.